

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**

Friday 13th October 2023

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been good to get back to the normal business of the school over the past few days. We held our first House Assemblies today and the response from the students across the entire school was impressive. Our House competitions offer something for every student, whatever their age. For example, over the next eight weeks we have Mario Kart, Basketball, boys and girls' football and Dodgeball (including a staff competition). These are in addition to the ongoing competitions such as poetry, creating a comic-style artwork, House points for using our Library and participating in PE extra-curricular. In total we run approximately 30 House competitions across the year.

There are eight Houses across the school which are named after stars – the House crests represent the constellation that the star is in. Each House consists of around 130 students from Year 7 to 13 and around 15 staff. Each competition is split into age related teams. The House Leaders and Form Tutors organise students into teams of lower (Year 7/8), middle (Years 9/10) and Seniors (Years 11, 12 and 13) who play against each other. We also hold half termly competitions for staff teams to play against each other. At the end of the Year the winning House is presented with our 79 year old Victor Ludorum trophy.

The key emphasis of the House system is encouraging students to volunteer and participate, particularly those who have never done so in the past. Please encourage your child to participate in the House system as it is an excellent opportunity for them to develop their confidence and, most importantly, it is good fun.

Best wishes,

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Year 7, 8 and 9 History Club - Russia: Regents, Revolutions and Repression

The History Club advances ever onwards! It was great to see so many students eager to learn more about Russia's past and indulging in the wondrous and woeful life of Peter the Great.

Over the next two half-terms, we will be diving into Russia's historical past. We will study its Regents, Revolutions and its methods of Repression, all with the aim of gaining a greater

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understanding of the journey the Russian people have taken to reach their situation in the present day.

History Club will run fortnightly on Tuesdays from 3:10pm-4:00pm meeting at room 114 with Mr Alderson, meeting next on Tuesday 17th of October, to delve into the February Revolution of 1905.

All students with an interest in History are welcome and each session will be an individual in-depth study of a period, individual or event. So, even if you cannot make it to all of them, still come along to those you can!

If you have any questions or queries, feel free to see Mr Alderson in the floor 1 Humanities and Maths office or alternatively email r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Detentions on Monday 16th October 2023

Due to a full staff training session at 3pm on Monday 16th October, detentions are not taking place after school on this date. ClassCharts will automatically assign students into this detention slot on Friday and Monday and staff will have to manually amend this. Please bear with us at the start of next week whilst we ensure all students are placed into appropriate detention sessions.

Mrs Matthews
Assistant Headteacher

ClassCharts

We wanted to inform you that there was also a technical error on ClassCharts on Tuesday 10th October and this led to some detentions being incorrectly up-scaled. Staff are working hard to ensure that this is rectified and students receive the correct sanction. We apologise for any confusion this has caused. The error was with the ClassCharts system and therefore it took some time for us to identify and correct.

Mrs Matthews
Assistant Headteacher

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YEAR 7

Restart a Heart Day

Re-start a Heart Day is on Monday 16th October. The students will have one lesson where they are taught how to perform CPR. Students will be told on the day which session they will be attending. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn a very important life skill!

Ski Trip

There is still one Year 7 place remaining for the Ski trip which was launched last week. If you are interested in your child taking part in this fantastic opportunity, please go through Parentmail to pay the deposit of £150.00 to confirm the place.

House System

Students have taken part in their first House Assembly of the year. This is a brand new opportunity for Year 7 to contribute to the wider school community and represent their houses. The first competitions include gaming, football and dodgeball. There will be a wide range of different competitions throughout the year that students can participate in.

I'm looking forward to seeing many Year 7 students taking part!

Mr Leigh
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Year 8 uniform has improved a lot this week, so I want to thank you for your efforts in helping with this. Another reminder that skirts must be knee length and tailored and leggings are not permitted. Anyone wearing the incorrect uniform will be instructed to change or sanctions will be put in place.

It was really great to see that Year 8 had taken up their full allocation of the Ski trip. It is an expensive trip, but there will be opportunities for more trips for students to take advantage of.

House assemblies have taken place this week relaunching the House system for this year. Last year lots of our students took part and I would like to see the same take up this year. It really does help build the school spirit and any encouragement from parents will be greatly received.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crossland
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

Uniform and Equipment

So far, the uniform standards in Year 9 have been great. The Uniform Policy states that students should wear their blazer at all times in school. Students are aware of the Uniform Policy and the expectations around blazers. As the weather is changing, I would like to remind students and parents that coats are not allowed to be worn in the building and need to be removed upon entry to the school to avoid any unnecessary sanctions.

Positive Start

Miss Exley and I would like to say how proud we are of Year 9 and how they have conducted themselves so far this year. On the doors in the mornings, students are polite and respectful and this is continued throughout the day. We have had multiple staff commend the year group on their attitude and behaviour so we would like to say well done for that.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Careers Meetings

We wanted to inform you that Year 10 students will be having careers meetings every Monday. It's an important initiative to help your child explore their future prospects and make informed decisions about their career paths. We encourage you to talk to your child about these meetings at home. Your support and guidance can make a significant difference in their decision-making process.

Additionally, please be informed that we will be sending a file home for your child at some point in the future. This file will contain valuable information and resources to assist them in their career planning journey.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Blackpool Trip

On Wednesday, Year 11 students were taken out on a year group trip to Blackpool. The students had a great time despite the grey skies and rain! We also had some great feedback from some of the coach drivers who said that the students were a credit to the school.

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Year 11 Trial Exams Reminder

As you will be aware, the Year 11 trial exams are scheduled to start the w/c 20th November 2023. Attendance to school is of paramount importance as the main preparations will take place in lessons. There will, however, be a need for students to establish good revision routines at home. Please encourage routine and structure for revision at home. Below are some resources that you may find useful when supporting revision at home.

bit.ly/PGSsettinggoals
bit.ly/PGSrevisionclock
bit.ly/PGSmindmaps
bit.ly/PGSflashcards

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Wednesday 18th October 2023 from 5.00pm. An invitation to attend has been sent out to all Year 11 students and their families, where you are invited to book onto one of two welcome presentations through the Eventbrite Invitation. One will take place at 5pm and one at 6.30pm.

We look forward to welcoming as many students and their families as possible throughout the evening, however if you have any questions prior to the event, regarding any aspect of Sixth Form study, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Smith l.smith@pudseygrammar.co.uk

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

****Important Dates**

w/c 4th December – Year 12 & Year 13 Assessment #1 (Year 12 classroom based & Year 13 trial exams - Hall)

GCSE English Resit

Tuesday 7th November AM
Thursday 9th November AM

GCSE Maths Resit

Wednesday 8th November AM
Friday 10th November AM
Monday 13th November AM

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Thank you to all our Year 12 & Year 13 students who continue to impact positively within our school community. Twenty four reading buddies met with students from KS3 this week to support reading during Form. This is a really important intervention that our students are supporting. It exemplifies an array of skills from empathy and leadership to teamwork skills, and demonstrates that students are willing to help out in our local community, and we cannot thank them enough for their time.

All Post 16 students should now be preparing for their first assessment week in December. Students should be considering how they are planning and organising their time, preparing revision notes and making time for application and practice of exam questions. All subject specific resources (topic notes, revision ideas and practice questions) can be found on the RM Tile Post 16 Revision Resources

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mzVzbErTIPotVZn5MqxjwUT2pFcnPjjJ>

UCAS Reminder

Huddersfield University - Gain extra UCAS points with Headstart Huddersfield

If you are interested in applying to the University of Huddersfield, you could gain extra UCAS points through a widening participation scheme called Headstart Huddersfield. Headstart Huddersfield offers eligible students, interested in applying to the University of Huddersfield, the opportunity to gain an extra 8 UCAS points. You simply need to attend an Open Day or Taster Day, and submit a 1,000 word assignment based on your experiences. If you would like to know more about the scheme, visit the Headstart webpage, watch the 90 second Headstart video or contact the University for more information.

Non-UCAS Support Some useful websites for apprenticeship research

Ask Resources - Apprenticeships/Degree Apprenticeships

<https://padlet.com/askresources21/ask-resources-2023-bw9tqgz6y2vjas6t>

Yorkshire Apprenticeship Services

<https://yorkshireapprenticeshipservice.co.uk/>

Follow us on Twitter/Instagram to keep up to date with our Sixth Form events and opportunities. @PGSixthform @pudseygrammarsixthform

Mrs Smith
Post 16 Director of Studies

Mrs Evans
Careers and Pastoral Support

Ms Nota
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Bragg
University and College Access Co-ordinator